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Bark Beetle Road Work Planned on Snowy Range and Sierra Madre Range

(SARATOGA, Wyo.) Feb. 2, 2011 – Roadside clearing of bark beetle hazard trees on National Forest roads will continue in 2011 on the Brush Creek/Hayden Ranger District.

"It's important for visitors to be aware of ongoing changes which will affect access to different areas this year," said District Ranger Steve Best. "Chances are good that logging activities will be nearby wherever you are on the District." Multiple contractors will begin work on the bark beetle projects as soon as they can this year, although weather often delays work.

As crews work to remove the hazard trees, some roads may be closed continuously to traffic, while other roads may be closed during the week and open on weekends. "Areas of the Forest will continue to be accessible by using alternate routes," Ranger Best added.

The removal of hazard trees continues to be an emphasis for the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest. These road projects are a short-term inconvenience for long-term public safety.

Page two of this news release lists the current bark beetle projects and their locations. The map on page two shows current project locations. Only primary roads are shown on the map. Logging work may affect access to smaller roads in the area. Keep in mind that other projects may be started as the summer progresses.

If you are visiting the National Forest around Encampment and Saratoga we encourage you to check the status of affected areas by calling 307-326-5258 or stopping by the Brush Creek/Hayden Ranger District office at 5556 South Highway 130 in Saratoga between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Road closures and project activities may also be found on the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest website: http://fs.usda.gov/mbr.

Expect closures for roadside bark beetle tree removal projects on the following routes. Note that the project numbers below correspond with the numbers on the attached map.

1. Snowy Range Scenic Byway

Hwy 130, between Brush Creek Visitor Center and Headquarters Park. WY Highway Dept plans to have flaggers on this project.

2. South Brush Creek Road

Forest Road 200, between Highway 130 and the South Brush Creek Campground.

3. Blackhall Road

Forest Road 409, between the Forest boundary and the Blackhall Lookout turnoff.

4. Jack Creek Road

Forest Road 452, between Forest boundary and Spring Creek turnoff.

5. Hog Park Road

Forest Road 550, between the Hog Park Picnic Area and the Wy/Colo State Line.

6. Deep Creek Road

Forest Road 801, between Highway 70 and the Forest boundary.

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